

Andrew Bridger

Economist

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Professional Overview

Economist with over 10 years' experience designing and executing economic impact reporting, macroeconomic analysis, and advanced econometric modelling across government, industry, and regulatory environments. Expert in leveraging big data analytics and causal inference methodologies to quantify economic contributions and measure societal impacts. Advanced proficiency in R and Python for econometric modelling, statistical analysis, and processing large, complex datasets. Proven track record leading multi-stranded analytical projects, managing cross-functional teams, and translating complex economic findings into compelling insights for executives, policymakers, and diverse stakeholders.

Areas of Expertise

Analytical skills Econometrics | Causal inference | Quasi-experimental designs | Macroeconomic analysis | CBA
Technical skills Excel | R | SQL | Data visualisation | Git/GitLab | Large dataset management
Professional Skills Problem-solving | Research design | Stakeholder communication | Team leadership

Professional Experience

Lead Economist, Financial Conduct Authority | London, UK

Oct 2022 – Present

- Lead quantitative analysis and econometric modelling initiatives, producing executive-ready analysis with transparent methodologies and comprehensive sensitivity testing for board-level decision-making.
- Successfully manage a team of 5 economists and coordinate projects with 10+ cross-functional analysts, setting timelines, scoping evaluation design, reviewing code, and ensuring quality-controlled deliverables.
- Lead experimentation and causal inference projects to designing and evaluating policy interventions, applying advanced techniques including regression discontinuity, difference-in-differences, and matching methods to measure impact and inform decision-making.
- Engineered machine learning algorithms in Python to identify predictive signals and patterns in consumer spending data across millions of transactions, extracting actionable insights that informed regulatory interventions and consumer protection strategies.
- Collaborated with cross-functional teams including behavioural economists, product specialists, and UX researchers to design and analyse A/B testing experiments evaluating how user interface design affects consumer understanding and decision-making.
- Working to ensure the safe and responsible adoption of AI within UK financial services by developing and monitoring the FCA's regulatory approach to AI and unlocking innovation in the sector.
- Contribute to high-profile FCA publications (e.g., cost-benefit analysis and policy statements) requiring rigorous assumptions, transparent methods, and stakeholder-ready narratives.
- Examples include: [Evaluation of our ban on contingent charging](#); [Statement of Policy on Cost Benefit Analysis; AI Update](#); [Positive Impact Report](#); and leading the cost-benefit analysis behind the [motor finance consumer redress scheme](#).

Senior Economist, The Australian Industry Group (Ai Group) | Melbourne, Australia

Dec 2017 – Oct 2022

- Delivered comprehensive macroeconomic analysis and economic impact assessments to clients including institutional investors, businesses, government, and news media.
- Directed monthly publication of proprietary economic indices, holding full accountability for statistical methodology, quality assurance, and mentoring junior team members on analytical techniques and data storytelling.
- Produced weekly macroeconomic analysis synthesising national and international data releases into actionable economic insights and impact assessments for a diverse client base.
- Led the Australian data collection, ingestion, and country analysis for World Economic Forum's cross-country reports, building reproducible R data pipelines and delivering clear insights for publication.
- Represented the organisation at conferences and client events, presenting analytical findings to business leaders and policymakers, establishing credibility with industry, government officials and international stakeholders.
- Produced regular analysis on energy and utilities-relevant themes (e.g., energy prices, investment conditions, supply-side constraints and policy developments), translating macro/policy shifts into implications for industry.
- Examples included: weekly economic note to clients; [development of the Australian Industry Index](#); [quarterly economic updates](#); [advocacy](#) for clients resulting in legislative changes and High Court win; [blog posts](#); [media commentary](#) based on my [analysis](#); reports on [Australian manufacturing](#) and [energy prices](#).

Economist, Australian Government | Canberra, Australia

Feb 2016 – Dec 2017

- Provided macroeconomic analysis and economic impact assessments for government decision-making, focusing on fiscal policy implications and macroeconomic trend analysis.
- Informed fiscal decisions for the Federal Budget through econometric modelling, scenario analysis, and cost-benefit assessments of proposed policy interventions.
- Monitored and reported on macroeconomic indicators including GDP, inflation, employment, and financial market conditions to support evidence-based policy development.
- Examples included: briefing Ministers on the latest economic developments; authoring economic insights for civil servants; analysing and advising Ministers on establishing a national lottery to fund sport, cultural, and scientific programmes.

Research Economist, Synergies Economic Consulting | Brisbane, Australia

Jan 2015 – Jul 2015

- Conducted WACC and cost of capital parameter research to support a regulatory submission for a regulated rate-of-return (price determination), documenting evidence, assumptions and sensitivities for inclusion in regulatory materials.
- Examples included: economic research for clients on supply chains, port facilities and energy markets; '[China-Australia FTA: Miracle or Mirage](#)'; and policy updates.

Qualifications

Master of Science in Economics, University of Edinburgh

Edinburgh, UK

- Examples included: [dissertation](#) for the Scottish Government on quantifying service trade restrictions using modern structural gravity models; [presentation](#) for the Scottish Government; [On international uncertainty links: BART-based empirical evidence for Australia](#).

Bachelor of Economics, Quantitative Methods, University of Queensland

Brisbane, Australia

Bachelor of Commerce, Finance, University of Queensland

Brisbane, Australia

Referees (contact details available upon request)

Julie Toth, Chief Economist at PEXA Group Limited, Former Chief Economist at Ai Group

Lisa Hind, General Manager at the Australian National Measurement Institute

Jeffrey Lassen, Managing Director at FTI Consulting, Former Principal at Synergies Economic Consulting